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PUBLIC DEFENDER
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BIENNIAL REPORT
1975/76 - 1976/77

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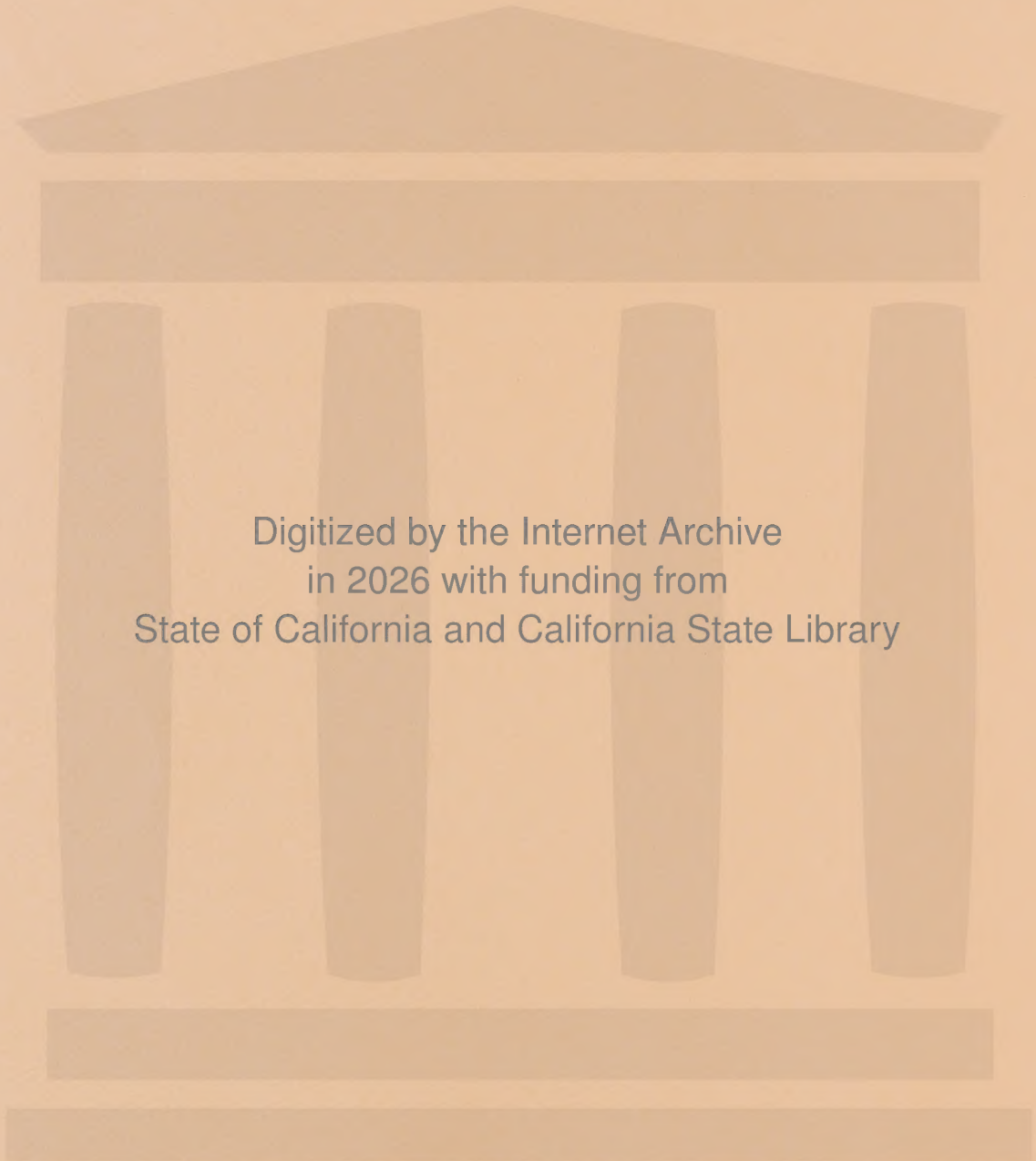
WILBUR F. LITTLEFIELD
PUBLIC DEFENDER



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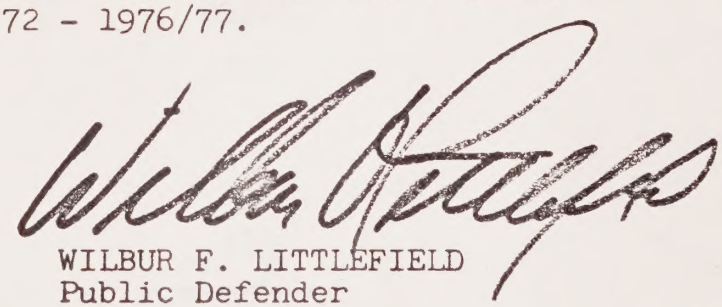
PREFACE

This Biennial Report for 1975/76 - 1976/77 includes data reflecting the growth in activities for the Public Defender for the 6-year period 1971/72 - 1976/77.



WILBUR F. LITTLEFIELD
Public Defender

BIENNIAL REPORT 1975/76 - 1976/77

The Public Defender provides legal representation to all persons, including juveniles, who are financially unable to furnish counsel for court proceedings. Services include representation in criminal, juvenile, mental health and civil proceedings. The legal authorization for the Public Defender operation is provided in Government Code Sections 27700-27711, and County Charter Article IV Section 14 and Article VI Section 23.

In 1976/77, the Public Defender provided services to a County court system consisting of approximately 265 courts involved in criminal proceedings and other civil courts, as well as appellate services to the State court system. These services were provided from 43 Public Defender office locations.

County Courts Serviced		Number
Superior		102
Adult	68	
Juvenile	32	
Psycho	2	
Municipal		162
Justice		1
	Total	265

Direct Budget Expenditures, Staffing and Workload for the report period 1975/76 - 1976/77 are summarized:

Budget Expenditures, Staffing and Workload

1975/76 - 1976/77

Item	1975/76	1976/77
Budget Expenditures	$14,178,486	$14,659,846
Staffing	593.8	570.8
Workload		
Case/Proceedings	260,257	241,996
Investigations	16,464	12,453

Workload Trends

The Public Defender workload continued to reflect an increase during 1975/76 primarily in the number of clients represented in misdemeanor and juvenile proceedings. In 1976/77, an overall decrease in total caseload of 18,261 cases was realized. While the individual caseloads remained static or reflected a slight increase, the workload in Misdemeanor Arraignments/Trials showed a decrease of 18,073 cases. The primary cause for the decrease in this category is attributable to the loss of deputy positions and hiring freezes imposed during the report period.

Staffing

In line with the County-wide staff reduction program, the staff of the Department was reduced by 23.0 positions between 1975/76 and 1976/77. The effect of the budgetary cuts has been to reduce the Public Defender indigent defense program for adults (felony and misdemeanor) and increase the costs to the County by the appointment of private counsel.

CAO Management Audit

A CAO Management Audit was conducted during this period which resulted in recommendations for additional management positions. The Head Deputy position in the Juvenile Division was upgraded to the status of Division Chief and the Special Services Division was created to coordinate Appellate, Civil, Investigation, and Mental Health activities with a management position of Division Chief. Appointments to the positions were made following departmental promotional examinations. Additional administrative staff was recommended within the Administrative Division to provide another level of supervisory and technical assistance to the Department.

SUMMARY OF

BUDGET EXPENDITURES, STAFFING AND WORKLOAD

1971/72 - 1976/77

					Report Period	
Budget Expenses	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
Salaries	$9,323,200	$9,968,816	$11,369,302	$12,330,564	$13,769,393	$14,319,900
Services & Supplies	247,229	318,754	324,806	362,659	391,230	339,474
Equipment	8,335	11,373	11,280	8,584	17,863	472
Total	$9,578,764	$10,298,943	$11,705,388	$12,701,807	$14,178,486	$14,659,846
Staffing	513.5	554.0	558.5	575.5	593.8	570.8
Workload						
Case/Proceedings	209,653	221,644	232,132	247,220	260,257	241,996
Investigations	15,665	17,574	19,387	20,192	16,464	12,453
					Report Period	

Note: Revenue

Revenue is not credited directly to the Public Defender budget. However, it is credited to the County by the Auditor-Controller. The source of revenue is primarily based on a 10% reimbursement by the State for local criminal defense activities from available State monies. However, the percentage received is substantially below that authorized. Such reimbursement is based on Public Defender activity and County-paid expenses for assigned counsel appointed by the Superior and Municipal Courts. Revenue received: 1971/72 - $390,280, 1972/73 - $328,912, 1973/74 - $362,969, 1974/75 - $320,840, 1975/76 - $348,318, 1976/77 - $352,548.

CASE/PROCEEDINGS WORKLOAD BY TYPE

1971/72 - 1976/77

Case/Proceedings	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
					------Report Period------	
Felony						
Arraignments/Prelim. Hrgs.	33,300	29,260	22,004	21,869	19,329	19,233
Arraignments/Trials Sup. Ct.	20,942	19,703	15,690	15,743	14,924	13,920
Narcotic Diversion - Sup. Ct.[1]	-	29	83	25	3	8
Probation Violations - Sup. Ct.	7,116	8,081	9,244	10,399	9,301	8,540
Appeals - Ct. of App./Supreme[2]	308	341	492	451	449	465
Rehabilitation - Sup. Ct.[2]	249	140	123	75	65	61
Diverson Prog. Rep. - Sup. Ct.[1]	-	-	96	135	77	93
Misdemeanor						
Arraignments/Trials	117,437	105,569	89,172	100,249	105,259	87,186
Arraignments/Trials - Traffic[3]	-	24,038	57,208	64,033	72,880	72,320
Narcotic Diversion - Mun. Cts.[1]	-	164	442	228	172	114
Appeals - Sup. Ct.	102	176	367	403	371	433
Probation Violations - Mun. Cts.[1]	-	-	-	11	16	8
Diversion Prog. Rep. - Mun. Cts.[1]	-	-	32	61	15	12
Juvenile						
Petitions - Sup. Ct.	18,767	22,565	25,062	19,846	22,648	25,471
Other						
Civil - Sup./Mun. Cts.[2]	5,443	4,836	4,992	5,122	4,663	3,374
Conservatorship - Sup. Ct.[3]		760	1,903	2,193	2,556	2,745
Conservatorship Acct. - Sup. Ct.[1]		286	343	1,041	1,015	768
Fugitive Warrants - Mun. Ct.	315	578	615	740	770	858
Mental Illness - Sup. Ct.	3,309	2,449	1,324	1,598	2,071	3,203
Misc. - Sup./Mun./Just. Cts.	1,258	1,656	2,048	2,289	3,019	2,627
Narcotic Referrals - Sup. Cts.	1,107	1,013	892	709	654	577
Total	209,653	221,644	232,132	247,220	260,257	241,996
					------Report Period------	

Notes:
1 - New proceedings
2 - See following pages for additional data
3 - Not reported separately in prior years - 6 mos. Jan. - June, 1973

APPELLATE WORKLOAD BY TYPE OF PROCESS

1971/72 - 1976/77

Proceeding	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 (Report Period)	1976/77 (Report Period)
Felony Appeals - Court of Appeals/ Cal. Supreme	308	341	492	451	449	465
Misd. Appeals/ Sup. Ct.	102	176	367	403	371	433
Total	410	517	859	854	820	898

Appellate Division

The Appellate Division prosecutes appeals to a higher court when it is reasonably expected to result in the reversal or modification of the judgment of conviction.

CIVIL WORKLOAD BY TYPE OF PROCESS

1971/72 - 1976/77

Proceeding	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 (Report Period)	1976/77 (Report Period)
Accepted Cases	786	610	593	488	441	268
Advice	3,286	3,147	3,230	3,637	3,423	2,597
Divorce Contempts[1]	-	177	295	376	395	335
Referrals to Private Attorneys, etc.	1,371	902	874	621	404	174
Total	5,443	4,836	4,992	5,122	4,663	3,374

Civil Division

The Civil Division represents claimants financially unable to employ counsel in civil cases where the sum involved does not exceed $100. It also defends persons who are financially unable to employ counsel in civil litigations in which the persons are being persecuted or unjustly harassed.

The civil workload is restricted to the Los Angeles Civic Center Office because of insufficient staffing. Civil inquiries received by branch offices are referred to local Bar or Legal Aid Associations.

Note 1:

Not reported separately in prior years.

INVESTIGATION WORKLOAD BY TYPE

1971/72 - 1976/77

Type of Investigation	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
					------Report Period------	
Conservatorship Acctg. Audit[1]	-	228	404	947	1,014	1,093
Felony	9,239	10,176	7,128	7,238	6,281	4,971
Juvenile[2]	-	-	3,520	3,622	2,783	2,048
Misc. Felony and Civil	1,034	1,112	748	770	409	430
Misdemeanor	4,102	4,246	4,922	5,674	4,680	2,998
Other Inquiries/ Investigations	1,290	1,812	2,665	1,941	1,297	913
Total[3]	15,665	17,574	19,387	20,192	16,464	12,453
					------Report Period------	

Investigation Division

The Investigation Division performs investigative work for adult and juvenile cases. At present, the majority of staffing is allocated to performing felony investigations. Misdemeanor investigations were initiated in August 1966. The workload listed in the table for Other Inquiries/Investigations involves principally, data collection activities which require a minimum amount of time.

Notes:

1 - New Proceeding, 1/15/73
2 - Not reported separately in prior years.
3 - Revised method of statistical computation for 1975/76 and 1976/77.

REHABILITATION WORKLOAD BY TYPE OF PROCESS

1971/72 - 1976/77

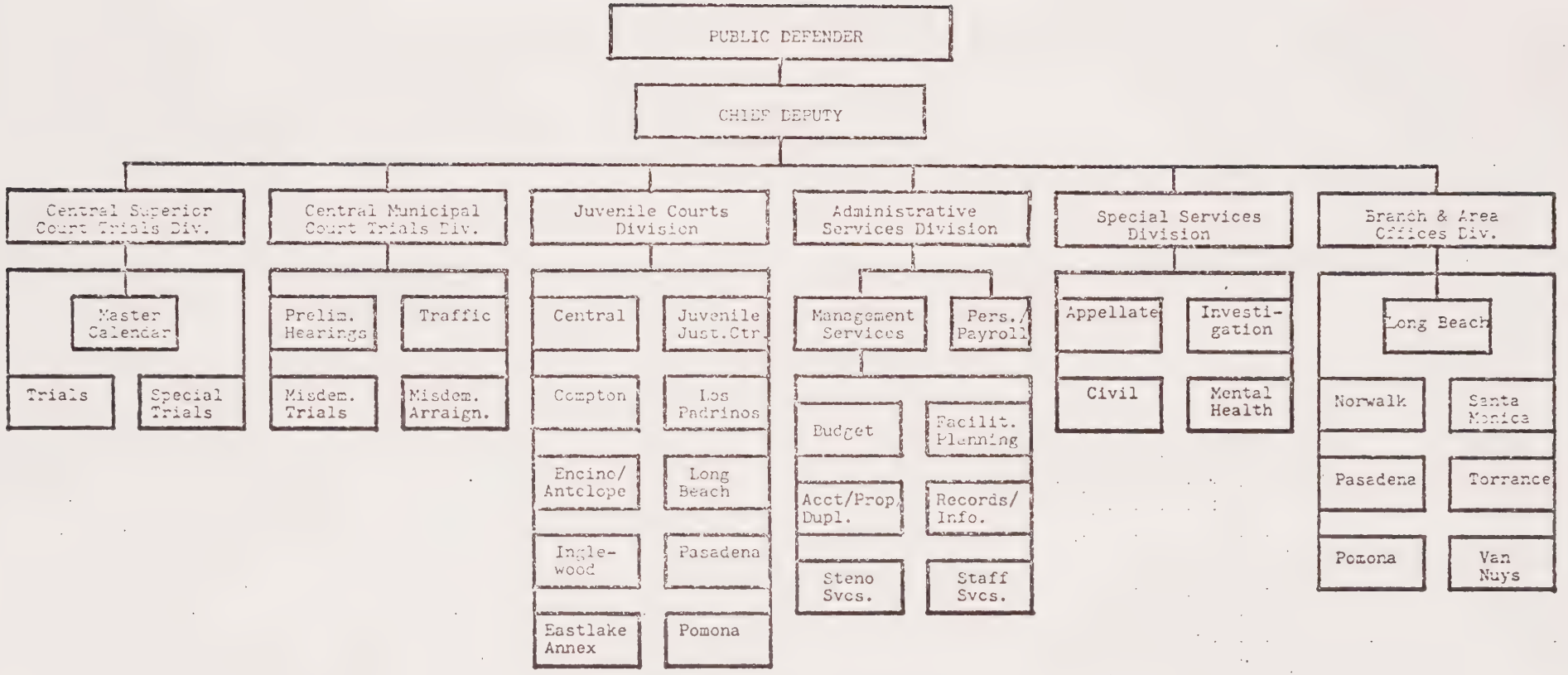
Proceeding	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
					←Report Period→	
New Cases - Felony[1]	249	140	123	75	65	61
Certificates Granted	32	25	25	4	58	65
Closed Cases Other Than Certificates Granted	241	88	28	26	15	266
					←Report Period→	

Rehabilitation

Sections 4852.01 - 4852.21 of the Penal Code provide procedures for a felony defendant to obtain a Certificate of Rehabilitation and application for Pardon. The Public Defender is required under this section, to provide assistance to a defendant in obtaining the Certificate of Rehabilitation which is processed in the Superior Court.

Note 1:

Fewer new cases are filed as a result of Penal Code changes, but the number of closed cases have increased.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Prelim. Hearings
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Misdem. Arraign.
Juvenile Courts Division
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Juvenile Just.Ctr
Compton
Los Padrinos
Encino/ Antelope
Long Beach
Ingle-wood
Pasadena
Eastlake Annex
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Administrative Services Division
Management Services
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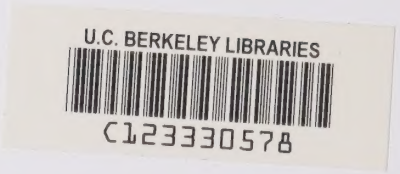

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